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PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Appl. No.: 10/615,231 Confirmation No.: 8377
Applicant(s): Angelini
Filed: July 7, 2003
Art Unit: 1723
Examiner: Krishnan S. Menon
Title: WETLAID-SPUNBOND LAMINATE MEMBRANE SUPPORT

Docket No.: 038712/239487
Customer No.: 00826

Mail Stop Amendment
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

RESPONSE

Sir:

In response to the Office Action dated May 3, 2005, reconsideration by the Examiner, withdrawal of the rejections and formal notification of the allowability of Claims 1-26 are respectfully solicited.

Applicant affirms the election of the claims of Group I, Claims 1-26, for prosecution in this application. Applicant reserves the right to file a divisional application on non-elected Claims 27-36.

The present invention is directed to nonwoven fabrics suitable for use as filtration support media, and more particularly, as a support for semi-permeable membranes of the type used in reverse osmosis, ultra filtration, etc. The supporting substrate for the semipermeable membrane must provide strength properties while having a minimal effect on the semipermeable membrane's transport properties. It is also important that the supporting substrate provide a suitably smooth surface on which to apply the membrane. Surface imperfections may create pinholes and may detrimentally affect filter performance.

The present invention provides a composite support exhibiting improved filter performance due to its advantageous surface properties. The composite supports of the present